

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 /047 W

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R 261502Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9223

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

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LAGOS AND BRUSSELS FOR FAA OFFICE

CASABLANCA FOR RCAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, KE

SUBJ: GOK REQUEST FOR CIVIL AVIATION TRAINING

1. SUMMARY: EMB RECEIVED GOK REQUEST FOR INQUIRE INTO US TRAINING FACILITIES OFFERING COURSES IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF AIRPORT MANAGEMENT AND ENGINEERING.

2. GOK MINISTRY OF POWER AND COMMUNICATION, WHICH HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR AIRPORT MANAGEMENT IN KENYA, HAS REQUESTED EMB TO PROVIDE INFO ON AVILABILITY OF TRAINING COURSES IN US. MINISTRY IS CONSIDERING TRAINING FOR KENYAN AERODROMES PERSONNEL IN FOLLOWING AREAS: AIRPORT MANAGEMENT, AIR TRANSPORT ECONOMICS, AND AERODROME ENGINEERING. ACCORDING TO MINISTRY LETTER, ICAO IS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING SUCH TRAINING IN BEIRUT; HOWEVER, GOK RELICTANT TO PARTICIPATE DUE LEBANESE POLITICAL TURMOIL. MINISTRY REQUESTS EXPEDITIOUS REPLY.

3. COMMENT: BESIDES US EMB, MINISTRY REQUEST WAS CIRCULATED TO FOUR OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN NAIROBI

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CULARIZED TO FOUR OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN NAIROBI

(UK, CANADA, NETHERLANDS, JAPAN). SUDDEN INTEREST IN OVERSEAS TRAINING FACILITIES PROBABLY STEMS FROM TWO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. FIRST, APPROXIMATELY 30 EXPATRIATE TECHNICAL ADVISORS HIRED BY EAST AFRICAN DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AVIATION (EADCA) TO WORK IN TRI-STATE AIRPORTS (PRINCIPALLY KENYA) WILL DEPART BETWEEN JUNE 1 AND DECEMBER 31 DUE INABILITY OF COMMUNITY TO CONTINUE FUNDING SALARIES. SECOND, GOK HAS FIRED ALL ALIENS NOW SERVING IN QUOTE SENSITIVE UNQUOTE POSITIONS AT KENYAN AIRPORTS. THIS AFFECTS UGANDAN AND TANZANIAN PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO KENYAN AIRPORT POSITION BY EADCA. GOK HAS COMPLAINED THAT ITS NEIGHBORS NEVER RECIPROCATED BY ACCEPTING KENYAN WORKERS.

4. DISILLUSIONED WITH FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT FORTHCOMING FROM EADCA, THE KENYANS ARE DETERMINED TO GO IT ALONE IN THE FIELD OF AIRPORT OPERATIONS. SITUATION IS PARTICULARLY ACUTE SINCE GOK MUST NOT ONLY REPLACE STAFF RELEASED IN 1976 BUT INCREASE PERSONNEL RESOURCES TO MEET DEMANDS OF NEW NAIROBI AIRPORT UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND EXPANDED FACILITIES AT MOMBASA AIRPORT. BOTH WILL BE COMPLETED 1977-80.

5. EMB RECOMMENDS DEPT EXPLORE WITH FAA AND POSSIBLE DOMESTIC AIRLINES RANGE OF SCHEDULED COURSES COMPARTIBLE WITH REQUESTS. WE ARE FAMILIAR WITH FAA'S AIRPORT MANAGEMENT COURSE, AS EADCA STAFF HAVE ALREADY BEEN ENROLLED. EMB SEES THIS GOK REQUEST AS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN A GROWING AVIATION MARKET, UP TO NOW PRIMARILY A BRITISH PRESERVE. UK HAS ENJOYED SUBSTANTIAL COMMERCIAL BENEFITS ON SALES OF AVIONICS AND AIRPORT HANDLING EQUIPMENT THROUGH INFLUENCE OF UK ADVISERS AND UK-TRAINED LOCAL PERSONNEL. FURTHERMORE, FAA IS ENCOURAGING EADCA TO ACCEPT US AIRCRAFT CERTIFICATION STANDARDS IN ADDITION TO UK REQUIREMENTS.

6. EMB WILL BE HAPPY TO SOLICIT FURTHER DETAILS FROM MINISTRY REGARDING OF STUDENTS CONTEMPLATED AND TRAINING OBJECTIVES.

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DECONTROL 4/26/77.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, PERSONNEL TRAINING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NAIROB04044
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760422/aaaaasov.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <30 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOK REQUEST FOR CIVIL AVIATION TRAINING
TAGS: EAIR, KE
To: SECSTATE WASHDC LAGOS BRUSSELS CASABLANCA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006